UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/L.63
9 December 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 14 (a) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE: EXISTING EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Institute of the Military Geosystem

Paper submitted by Austria**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by R. Mang, Director, Institute of the Military Geosystem (IMG), and presented by I. Hausner.

97-38149 (E) 050198 060198

/...

1. Introduction

Austria's joining the European Union (EU) and its participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace-Programme (PfP) have led to the re-definition of a series of security-political structures. Even though the long-term consequences of these developments cannot be predicted to their full bearing at this point, the MilGeosystem of the Austrian Armed Forces (AAF) had to react to these new circumstances in good time by taking long-range internal organisational, material- and personnel-related measures.

The Institute of the Military Geosystem was established on 15 January 1997, roughly in synchronisation with the setting-up of the new structure of the Austrian Armed Forces, and subsequently attached to the National Defence Academy (NDA). The official orders and direction are administered by the Strategic Planning and Research Division of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

The IMG was formed by merging the former Military Geographic Department, Section A of the Strategic Planning and Research Division of the Federal Ministry of Defence with the Military Geographic Echelon of the Military Command Vienna. Its task is to mass the existing but so far dispersed geographic resources of both the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces.

2. Tasks of the IMG

The tasks of the IMG are based on the „Concept of Military Geosystems" ratified on November 14, 1990. This concept demands of the IMG to consider the requirements for standardisation of geographic information for the decision making processes by the military Command and Control (military geographic information) and by the co-ordinated Command and Control (defence geographic information) as well as procure and supply the required data and information.

The accomplishment of theses tasks is the basis
- for the construction of Military Geoinformation and Geoexpert Systems (MIHIS/MIGES),
- for the installation and operation of geodata-based weapon systems
- and for the active participation of the AAF in international organisations.

To some extent, the subsequent tasks are diametrically opposed to the former activities of the Military Geosystems. Individual, often decentrally defined data and information packages have to be replaced b standardised, centrally processed packages. These are then specified for different commands and branches.

Prerequisites for that are profound, scientifically ascertained data for the military and defence geography regarding the functional relations between military and geographic conditions. Research and conversion of these relations are the principal tasks of the IMG.

The attachment to the highest military institution for research and training, the NDA, was thus definitely justifiable. It offers the opportunity for maximal interaction between theory and practice of military Command and Control procedures with regards to the geographical space - where all military activities take place.

As the organisational realisation of the Austrian Military Geosystem, the IMG is the central point of contact
- for the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence,
- for its subordinate departments
- and for the non-military parts of the Comprehensive National Defence
for the provision of analogue and digital data and information in all matters of the Command and Control techniques of the military and co-ordinated command.

3. Structure and tasks of the IMG

For the realisation of the tasks mentioned above, the IMG disposes of the following structure:

3.1. Organizational structure

The Institute of the Military Geosystems
Director of the Military Geosystem
Chief Executive

Directorate
Sub-division for International Relations
Sub-division for Geoscientific Projects (militia/reserve component)

Division I: International Management
Organisation
Administration

Division II: System Analysis
Command and Control Analysis
MilGeo Determinant Systems Analysis
Operationalisation/Evaluation

Division III: Information System
Source Monitoring
Access/Procurement
Data Acquisition
Military Geoinformation and Geoexpert Systems (MIGIS/MIGES)

Division IV: Production and Supply
Editing
Wording
Cartography
Supply Management

3.2. Specific tasks

The management and the four directorates execute the following tasks:

Director:
Command and Control of the IMG
International Relations: Carrying out the professional relations of the IMG on an international level and concluding of professional co-operative agreements

Directorate I: Internal Management
Organisation and administration of internal issues

Directorate II: System Analysis
Analysis of the relevant Command and Control procedures
Analysis of the reciprocal actions between military and geographic objects
Operationalisation and evaluation of the respective findings

Directorate III: Information System
Observation and analysis of sources of geographic data
Securing the access and procurement of data
Planning and co-ordination of terrain reconnaissance on troop level
Management of the IT (information technology) -based Military Geoinformation and Geoexpert System (MIGIS/MIGES)

Directorate IV: Production and Supply
Data and information processing for editing , wording and cartography
Supply management for MilGeo products/data

It is the aim of the IMG to keep a large militia (reserve component) unit available in order to meet both the requirements for an overall limitation and reduction of the active personell within the MilGeo-system and for the realisation of special geoscientific tasks. In this unit, militia personell from all branches of the civilian economy, science and administration relevant for military and defence geosciences should find adequate mobilisation appointments as well as a base for training and further training. On the basis of working pools co-ordinated by the IMG, geoscientific projects can be executed in an efficient, fast and cost-saving way. In addition to professional benefits, this will have tremendous effects on defence politics.

Until further notice, the IMG is dislocated from the NDA in the AG Rossau (Rossauer Laende 1, A-1092 Vienna). The complete TOE of the IMG will comprise a number of 66, namely a staff of 31, plus five men of the troops on active service and 30 militia officers.

4. National and international position of the IMG

On the basis of the „Concept of the Military Geosystems" the IMG is the only agency within the Federal Republic of Austria to monitor, process and provide standardized geographic information on Austria and, if required, on further areas.

Among this information and materiel rate
- topographic and thematic maps with special features,
- digital geographic and alphanumeric geodata (e.g. topographic models) and
- relevant regulations for the processing and usage of geodata for the military and co-ordinated Command and Control.

The IMG traces its history back to the „Landesbeschreibungsbüro des k. u. k. Generalstabes", then the higher headquarters of the world-renowned „Militärgeographisches Institut".

5. Conclusion

The IMG is the youngest department of the NDA. Its main task lies in the procurement and supply of the standardised demand for geographic information for the Command and Control procedures of both the military (military geographic information) and the co-ordinated command (defence geographic information).

The motto of the IMG is based on the recognition that any military activity is substantially determined by space and terrain:

Terra Semper Invicta
(Terrain will never be defeated).